



Minneapolis Federation of Educators Member Financial Assistance

Our most powerful tool is a strike. We withhold our labor to win our demands. A strike is not without risks, and a major risk is loss of pay. It can be financially scary and overwhelming to strike. There are supports in place for members experiencing financial challenges during a strike.

There are two sources of financial assistance for members DURING a strike.

1. No-interest strike loan - application available DAY ONE of a strike.
2. Bill-pay assistance - application available November 17th.

Please see the table below for the specific member financial assistance offered, who is eligible and when it is available.

Type of Support	Who administers it?	Eligibility requirements	When can members apply?	When is it available?	How much is available?
No-Interest Loans	Education Minnesota through Expedition Credit Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership in MFE • Full participation in a strike 	The application link will go live on Monday November 10.	Midnight on Monday November 17th	\$600 (11/17) \$1200 (12/10)
<u>MFE Hardship Fund</u>	Working Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership in MFE • Full participation in a strike • Financial hardship due to the strike • 75% reserved for ESPs 	Initial screening form will be available Wednesday November 19 on the MFE website.	The application process begins Wednesday November 19. Bill pay assistance is release beginning Friday November 28	Up to \$500 toward payment of a bill
Mutual Aid	Each site can set up their own	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each site gets to determine eligibility (how much goes to ESPs, etc) 	Each site gets to determine	Each site gets to determine	Each site gets to determine

No-Interest Strike Loans through EdMN

Description: ALL members have access to a no-interest strike loan through EdMN and should access this benefit if they believe they will have any financial hardship during the strike. Eligibility requires you to be a dues-paying member and actively participating in strike activities. You can borrow from \$600-\$1800, depending on the length of the strike. Strike loan applications will be available on the MFE website beginning Monday, November 10.

Required: Members must first view the video found on the [MFE website](#) under the strike information tab. You can get the password from your strike captain.

Eligibility: Eligibility requires you to be a dues-paying member and actively participating in strike activities. EVERYONE is eligible for the loan unless you have defaulted on a strike loan in the past. Please read the questions and answers about the no-interest loan for more details.

How it Works:

1. You must be a member, participating daily in an active strike, and you have NOT defaulted on a previous strike loan.
2. Apply for the strike loan. Your application will include the creation of an account at Expedition Credit Union and an application for the strike loan
3. Midnight on Monday, November 17, if we are still on strike, you will receive a \$600 deposit in your Expedition Credit Union account.
4. If we are still on strike December 10th, you will be eligible for an additional \$1200.
5. Please read the questions and answers for more information.

Hardship Fund Donations

The size of the hardship fund is dependent on the amount of donations received. MFE does not maintain or reserve any hardship funds. Anyone and everyone can contribute to the hardship fund. If there is no strike, money is returned to donors. The [Hardship Fund page](#) is accepting donations now.

Mutual Aid

MFE and Working Partnerships do not administer nor coordinate mutual aid. Members and sites are free to administer and coordinate their own mutual aid program on their own. Please talk to your Strike Captain about mutual aid.

Additional Resources

Working Partnerships offers [multiple programs to support members](#). We encourage members experiencing financial challenges to explore resources. Many of these resources are available regardless of a strike.

Emergency Health Insurance

In the event that a strike continues into a second month, the district is not legally obligated to pay our health insurance premiums and we risk losing its contributions to our health care. However, educators would be eligible to continue benefits through COBRA at their own expense. If a strike ended before the end of a second month, health care premiums would be reinstated by the district.

How to prepare financially for a possible strike.

Assessing Your Personal Resources

- Do you have other income coming in or significant savings set aside?
- Do you have loved ones who can help you financially/materially in getting you what you need to weather a strike?
- Do you have anything you can offer to others who may need more help than you?

Assessing Your Personal Needs

- Do you have financial needs that can't be put off?
- Do you have loved ones who rely on your paycheck?
- Do you have what you need to afford housing, utilities, groceries, transportation and necessary medical care?